

Amendments to the Claims under Revised 37 C.F.R. § 1.121

Claim 1 (currently amended): An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence:

- (a) as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 4;
- (b) of the DNA insert encoding a Secs-1 polypeptide in ATCC Deposit No. PTA-1755;
- (c) encoding a polypeptide as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 5; or
- (d) that is complementary to the nucleotide sequence of any of (a) - (c).

Claim 2 (currently amended): An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a region of the nucleotide sequence of:

- (a) SEQ ID NO: 4, or
- (b) the DNA insert encoding a Secs-1 polypeptide in ATCC Deposit No. PTA-1755; encoding a polypeptide fragment of at least about 25 amino acid residues, but not more than 80 amino acid residues, wherein upon injection into an animal the polypeptide fragment produces an antibody that binds to the polypeptide as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 5.

Claim 3 (currently amended): An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising:

- (a) a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide comprising ~~the~~an amino acid sequence~~[[:]]~~ as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 5;

~~Met Arg Leu Leu Xaa Leu Ser Xaa Leu Xaa Xaa Xaa Leu Xaa Leu Cys Xaa Xaa Xaa~~
~~Xaa Ser Xaa Glu Gly Xaa Xaa Xaa Pro Ala Lys Xaa Xaa Xaa Xaa Arg Xaa Xaa Xaa~~
~~Xaa Xaa Cys His Xaa Xaa Pro Xaa Xaa Xaa Xaa Xaa Xaa Xaa Lys Gly Xaa His Xaa~~
~~Arg Xaa Cys Xaa Xaa Cys Xaa Xaa Xaa Xaa Xaa Xaa Xaa Xaa Trp Val Val Pro Gly~~
~~Ala Leu Pro Gln Xaa,~~

wherein the isoleucine residue at position 12 may be ~~either~~ substituted with a methionine or isoleucine residue;

the serine residue at position 18 may be ~~either~~ substituted with a cysteine or serine residue;

the isoleucine residue at position 19 may be ~~either isoleucine or~~ substituted with a valine residue;

the threonine residue at position 22 may be ~~either substituted with a serine or threonine~~ residue;

the lysine residue at any of positions 25, 26, 61, or 64 may be ~~either substituted with an arginine or lysine~~ residue;

the arginine residue at position 26 may be substituted with a lysine residue;

the arginine residue at position 27 may be ~~either substituted with a histidine or arginine~~ residue;

the asparagine residue at position 51 may be ~~either substituted with a threonine or asparagine~~ residue;

the histidine residue at position 55 may be ~~either substituted with an asparagine or histidine~~ residue;

the valine residue at position 81 may be ~~either substituted with an isoleucine or valine~~ residue; and

the residues at any of positions 5, 8, 10, 11, 14, 17, 20, 31, 32, 33, 34, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 43, 44, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 52, 57, 59, 62, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, or 71 may be substituted with any naturally occurring amino acid; and

~~the residue at any of positions 37, 38, 39, or 65 may be any naturally occurring amino acid or may be absent~~; or

(b) a nucleotide sequence that is complementary to the nucleotide sequence of (a).

Claim 4 (original): A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of Claims 1, 2, or 3.

Claim 5 (original): A host cell comprising the vector of Claim 4.

Claim 6 (original): The host cell of Claim 5 that is a eukaryotic cell.

Claim 7 (original): The host cell of Claim 5 that is a prokaryotic cell.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A process of producing a polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid molecule of any of Claims 1(a)-(c), 2, or 3(a), comprising the step of culturing the host cell of

Claim 5 under suitable conditions to express the polypeptide encoded by said nucleic acid molecule, and optionally isolating the polypeptide from the culture, thereby producing the polypeptide.

Claims 9-59 (cancelled).